

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00950 070918Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----070920Z 053180 /12

O R 070829Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3239  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0950

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, IS, LE, SY, XF  
SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 049214

1. IN VIEW FONMIN BOUTROS'S REQUEST THAT I KEEP  
PRESIDENT SARKIS INFORMED OF ANY RESPONSE FROM  
WASHINGTON ON UN FORCE QUESTION, I DECIDED DELIVER  
MESSAGE IN REFTEL BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR  
CAIRO, RATHER THAN WAITING FOR BOUTROS TO RETURN.  
THEREFORE CALLED ON SARKIS AT NOON ON MARCH 5 AND  
GAVE HIM PIECE OF PAPER, IN ENGLISH, CONTAINING POINTS  
IN PARA 2 REFTEL.

2. SARKIS READ IT AND SAID OUR POSITION WAS CLEAR.  
AS HE HAD SAID TWO DAYS EARLIER, HE DID NOT SEE  
UN FORCE AS SOMETHING TO BE INVOKED AT THIS  
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JUNCTURE, BECAUSE HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT COULD PLAY  
SORT OF ROLE REQUIRED TO IMPOSE CEASE-FIRE, BUT SAW IT  
AS SOMETHING TO BE USED WHEN TIME WAS RIPE, AFTER  
THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT TO BE MAINTAINED OR POLICED.  
IN MEANTIME, HE PLANNED SOUND OUT ARAB OPINION ON UN  
FORCE AT CAIRO SUMMIT. HE HAD IMPRESSION PLO WOULD  
GO ALONG WITH IDEA, BUT HAD MADE NO SOUNDING OF

LEBANESE INTERNAL POSITIONS. HE WOULD HAVE TO DO SO VERY CAREFULLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM CAIRO, AND WOULD WANT TIME TO REFLECT IN ANY EVENT. HE NOTED THAT ANOTHER FACTOR MILITATING AGAINST IMMEDIATE USE OF FORCE TO SOLVE TODAY'S PROBLEM WAS THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO GET IT ORGANIZED AND IN PLACE. THIS WOULD BE MATTER OF AT LEAST THREE OR FOUR WEEKS, BY WHICH TIME SITUATION COULD WELL HAVE CHANGED. HE WOULD HAVE TO STUDY PROBLEM CLOSELY.

3. WE AGREED THAT I WOULD WAIT TO HEAR FROM HIM. I THEN SAID THAT, AS HE WOULD HAVE NOTED FROM PRESS, I HAD PAID COURTESY CALL ON PIERRE GEMAYEL DAY BEFORE. LATTER HAD HARANGUED ME ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD CIVIL WAR AND HAD BEEN VERY HARD ON US. I HAD RAISED CEASE-FIRE IDEA WITH HIM AND GEMAYEL HAD SAID ONE COULD NOT DEAL WITH EXTREMISTS, WHO NOT INTERESTED IN STABILITY. SARKIS REPLIED THAT CHRISTIAN FORCES IN SOUTH WERE CONTROLLED PRIMARILY BY CHAMOUNISTS, AND NOT BY PHALANGE, AND REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT SITUATION WAS NOW BEYOND CONTROL OF EITHER.

4. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH DEPARTMENT'S POSITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ATTITUDES ON UN FORCE QUESTION. BELIEVE REFTEL STRUCK EXACTLY RIGHT NOTE. WE HAVE GIVEN SARKIS ALL HE COULD REASONABLY EXPECT.

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5. POST SCRIPT. DATT REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING OVER WEEKEND AT NABATIYA BETWEEN SAIQA AND REJECTIONISTS. APPEARS SYRIANS USING SAIQA (FORCE ESTIMATED AT 750 MEN) IN ATTEMPT TO TAKE TOWN AWAY FROM REJECTIONISTS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS. WILL BE REPORTING IN MORE DETAIL.  
PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 49214  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3191395  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTHERN LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, LE, SY, XF, UNSC, (SARKIS ILYAS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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